

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T MOSCOW 2795

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PARM, US, UR

SUBJECT: TTBT/PNE NEGOTIATIONS: STATUS OF US PROPOSAL ON EQUIP-
MENT EXAMINATION AND CUSTODY - TTBT/PNE DELEGATION
MESSAGE NO. 81

1. US PROPOSAL ON EQUIPMENT EXAMINATION AND CUSTODY (BASED
ON STATE 37571, MOSCOW 2548 AND STATE 40658) INCORPORATED
IN SPECIFIC TEXT REPORTED MOSCOW 2664.

2. SOVIETS HAVE NOT YET MADE SPECIFIC REPLY TO THIS
PROPOSAL.

3. FROM DISCUSSIONS THUS FAR, SOVIET ATTITUDE SEEMS TO
INCLUDE FOLLOWING:

(A) THEY ARGUE THAT CHOICE OF WHICH COMPLETE SET OF
EQUIPMENT TO BE USED FOR VERIFICATION AND WHICH SET TO BE
HELD "HOSTAGE" SHOULD BE MADE VERY EARLY, PERHAPS AT
PORT OF ENTRY BY CHOOSING BETWEEN TWO SETS OF PACKING CASES.
THEY WANT US TO PROPOSE WHERE THIS OCCURS BUT NOT AT
EXPLOSION SITE.

(B) THEY SAY THEY HAVE NO INTEREST IN HAVING
DESIGNATED PERSONNEL DEMONSTRATE TO THEM THAT EQUIPMENT
IS IN GOOD WORKING ORDER.

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(C) THEY CONTINUE TO SAY THEY WANT TO EXAMINE EQUIPMENT THAT IS TO BE USED FOR VERIFICATION AND WANT A GUARANTEED PERIOD OF TEN DAYS TO DO THIS; HOWEVER, THEY HAVE REFUSED TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT NATURE AND SCOPE OF EXAMINATION DESIRED. THEY HAVE NOTED THAT UNTIL THEY BECOME FAMILIAR WITH EQUIPMENT DURING FAMILIARIZATION PERIOD IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PUT TOGETHER EXAMINATION SCENARIO AND PROCEDURES THEY MIGHT FOLLOW.

(D) THEY CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT THEY MUST HAVE RIGHT TO RETAIN ALL RECORDING EQUIPMENT AFTER EXPLOSION FOR 30 DAYS.

(E) THEY CONTINUE TO HARANGUE US ON POINT THAT (C) AND (D), LITERALLY OR IN SUBSTANCE, WERE INCLUDED IN ORIGINAL US POSITION.

(F) THEY SAY THEY ARE STILL STUDYING US "FLIP-OF-COIN" APPROACH TO RETENTION OF RECORDING EQUIPMENT.

(G) THEY HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT ALL OF MEASURES INVOLVED ARE AIMED AT SINGLE CONCERN; I.E., THAT "UNWARRANTED CAPABILITY" TO ACQUIRE "OTHER INFORMATION" MAY BE BUILT INTO OR SLIPPED INTO EQUIPMENT BEFORE AND/OR AFTER ARRIVAL IN HOST COUNTRY. WHEN ASKED ABOUT FULL PANOPLY OF MEASURES PROPOSED, SOVIETS SIMPLY SAY "YOU CAN'T HAVE TOO MUCH INSURANCE" AGAINST SUCH THINGS.

4. WE PLAN CONTINUE TO STAND ON GENERAL PROPOSITION, WHICH WE BELIEVE ENTIRELY OBJECTIVELY DEFENSIBLE, THAT US PREPARED -- AS EVIDENCED BY OUR DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSAL INVOLVING CHOICE THROUGHOUT -- TO ACCEPT SHARING OF PERCEIVED RISKS INHERENT IN EQUIPMENT SITUATION, BUT WILL NOT ACCEPT UNEQUAL RISK SHARING.
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